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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

41943 7590 09/18/2009

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KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

EXAMINER

BARTOSIK, ANTHONY N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3635

DATE MAILED: 09/18/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/538,717	06/13/2005	Yong-Keun Kim	P5093/TAN	7314

TITLE OF INVENTION: REINFORCING BAR COUPLER

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	12/18/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

**PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

41943 7590 09/18/2009

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

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I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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nonprovisional	YES	\$755	\$300	\$0	\$1055	12/18/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
BARTOSIK, ANTHONY N	3635	052-583100

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).	2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.	1_____
<input type="checkbox"/> "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. <b>Use of a Customer Number is required.</b>	2_____
	3_____

## 3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent):  Individual  Corporation or other private group entity  Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:	4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)
<input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> A check is enclosed.
<input type="checkbox"/> Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)	<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
<input type="checkbox"/> Advance Order - # of Copies _____	<input type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

## 5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.  b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Gwacheon City, Gyeonggi-Do, 427-600				PAPER NUMBER
KOREA, REPUBLIC OF				DATE MAILED: 09/18/2009

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)

(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 357 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 357 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/538,717	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KIM, YONG-KEUN
	<b>Examiner</b> ANTHONY N. BARTOSIK	<b>Art Unit</b> 3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to 04/21/2009.

2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 48 & 49.

3.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)  All b)  Some\* c)  None of the:

1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached  
1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

(b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application

2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment

4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material

8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a communication with Peter Kwon on August 25, 2009.

#### **Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 47. (Cancel)

48. A reinforcing bar coupler for coupling overlapped first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a), which ~~are formed~~ include a plurality of semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11), the reinforcing bar coupler comprising:

a base sleeve (2, 2b) having an outer surface formed with a flat bottom surface, two flat lateral surfaces and two rounded corners between said flat bottom surface and said lateral surfaces,

said outer surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) ~~forming~~ including multiple of semi-annular ribs (22) and longitudinal ribs (21), which ~~are same pattern of the semi-annular ribs (12) and longitudinal ribs (11) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),~~

an inner surface of the base sleeve (2, 2b) forming including an inner wall adjacent each flat lateral surface and dual half-cylindrical cavities with a top opening  
(23) for mounting the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) laid in parallel,  
said dual half-cylindrical cavities closely arranged to directly contact and tightly bind the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly binding, and forming including a plurality of semi-annular grooves (26) with same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),  
said semi-annular grooves (26) formed same interval of the semi-annular ribs (12) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a),  
a pair of locking parts (27), each locking part located along the upper longitudinal with both edges of the lateral walls (25), said locking parts (27) of the base sleeve (2, 2b) being integrally formed a right triangle shaped edge with and extending out from said lateral walls and including an inwardly slanted surfaces (29),  
a cover sleeve (3, 3b) forming including an upside down shaped dual arch cut-outs on an lower surface and a plurality of semi-annular grooves (32) with the same patterns of the semi-annular ribs (12) grooves of the base sleeve for fitting the semi-annular ribs (12) and semi-cylindrical ridges (24) of the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) and a flat top surface (33) at opposite upper the lower surface, wherein the upside down shaped dual arch cut-outs on an the lower surface are arranged to directly contacted and tightly bind the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) for tightly-binding to each other, and

a wedge (4, 4b) having gradually decreasing thickness along [[with the]] an axial direction[[.]] and a pair of locking sections (45) along [[with both]] adjacent the longitudinal edges (46) of the wedge, the wedge including a slanted section with gradually decreasing thickness in the longitudinal direction for firmly coupling the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a) as axially slide advancing into said base sleeve (2, 2b), wherein said locking sections (45) of the wedge (4, 4b) are integrally formed and include a right triangle shape groove with outwardly an inwardly slanted surfaces (46) that has the same slope and mate with the inwardly slanted surfaces of the locking parts of the base sleeve as the wedge is longitudinally slid underneath the locking parts, both slanted surfaces (29, 46) have same slopes for smoothly mating each other and for press-bonding the first and second reinforcing bars (1, 1a).<sub>14</sub>

49. The reinforcing bar coupler according to claim 48, wherein said base sleeve (2, 2b) has an overall length, which is a half interval of the semi-annular ribs shorter than that of said cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (33a) formed at on one end portion of the flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), said wedge (4, 4b) forming a flat bottom surface (43) for contacting with said flat top surface (33) of the cover sleeve (3, 3b), a set of serrations (43a) formed at on one end portion of the flat bottom surface (43) of said wedge (4, 4b), more than one groove (44) formed on said flat bottom surface (43) along with the axial longitudinal direction.

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

1. During the interview on 7/27/2009, the Examiner and Applicant's representative discussed the differences between the present invention and the prior art. After evaluating the prior art, the Examiner contacted Applicant's representative to address the 35 U.S.C. 112 issues and indicated what limitations, if added to the claims, would make the claims allowable. Applicant agreed to the implementation of the limitations and language that would correct the 112 issues. The Examiner then amended the claims to their current state to rectify the 35 U.S.C. 112 issues and include the limitations that would render the claims patentable. The Applicant was presented the claims and agreed to the Examiners amendment. As such, claims 48 and 49 are patentable.
  
2. As mentioned above, claims 48 and 49 where amended to correct the 35 U.S.C. 112 issues. Additionally, language was also added to further define the locking parts, the wedge as shown in Figures 1 and 9, and the interaction between them. By defining the locking parts and wedge in the manner as presented in the amended claims, the claims now define the present invention over the prior art. The prior art does not disclose, teach, suggest, or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the closest prior art, *Jobin et al.*, such that the wedge and locking parts would be of the structural

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configuration and functional interaction that the present claims require. Therefore, the claims are found to be patentable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY N. BARTOSIK whose telephone number is (571)270-3112. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30-5:00; E.D.T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Richard E. Chilcot, Jr./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3635

Anthony Bartosik  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3635